

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7044

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 5906

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SOCI, AR

SUBJECT: WORK STOPPAGES IN AUTO PLANTS

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 5904 (B) BUENOS AIRES 5856

1. DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT BAN AGAINST STRIKE ACTION (REFTEL A), AUTO WORKERS IN MOST OF THE BUENOS AIRES AUTO PLANTS REMAIN IN VARIOUS STAGES OF PROTEST, RANGING FROM SLOWDOWNS TO FULL PARALYZATION OF ACTIVITY. IN SOME OF THE PLANTS, THE STRIKING WORKERS HAVE BEEN CLEARED OUT BY SECURITY FORCES. HOWEVER, CHRYSLER WORKERS REPORTEDLY HAVE RETURNED TO WORK AND ABOUT 100 WORKERS WERE BACK ON THE JOB LAST NIGHT AT FORD'S GENERAL PACHECO PLANT. FORD HAS DISMISSED 98 OF ITS WORKERS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE LABOR CONFLICT, WHILE CHRYSLER DISMISSED 23 OTHERS.

2. THUS THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SOME DISSIPATION OF STRIKE ACTIVITY IN THE PAST 24 HOURS, BUT BECAUSE SEVERAL PLANTS ARE NORMALLY CLOSED THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS AS A RESULT OF THE CURRENT RECESSION, IT WILL NOT BE UNTIL MONDAY THAT A BETTER READING CAN BE TAKEN. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A SLOWDOWN AT THE PERKINS ENGINE PLANT IN CORDOBA, THE REST OF THE CORDOBA AUTO PLANTS REPORTEDLY ARE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE STRIKE FEVER HAS SPREAD THUS FAR TO OTHER INDUSTRIES, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE RELATED TRACTOR INDUSTRY.

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3. THERE HAS BEEN NO VIOLENCE REPORTED THUS FAR IN ANY OF THE STRUCK AUTO PLANTS. HOWEVER, A CHRYSLER PLANT SUPERVISOR WAS GUNNED DOWN IN FRONT OF HIS HOME LAST NIGHT. WHETHER THIS ACT WAS CONNECTED DIRECTLY WITH THE STRIKE OR IS ANOTHER OF THE MANY CASES OF TERRORIST ASSASSINATION REMAINS UNCLEAR. SOME OF THE NEWS MEDIA HAVE REPORTED RECEIVING COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING THE CREATION OF A CLANDESTINE CGT AND CONDEMNING THE CURRENT CGT LEADERSHIP AS "INEFFECTUAL BUREAUCRATS AND TRAITORS" AND ANNOUNCING THE INITIATION OF A CAMPAIGN IN PROTEST AGAINST THE WORKERS' LOSS OF PURCHASING POWER AND DEMANDING NORMALIZATION OF TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY. THE CGT AND THE MAJOR UNIONS, INCLUDING THE AUTO UNION, HAVE BEEN INTERVENED BY THE MILITARY SINCE THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT SEIZED POWER IN MARCH.

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Message Attributes

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